6 KEYS TO EDUCATE ON SEXUAL CONSENT



1 Don't hide scientific evidence in educational programmes

Many educational programmes in schools lack a solid scientific foundation. Access to scientific evidence is a right and it's the responsibility of educators to ensure students have access to it, including when discussing consent and emotional-sexual relationships.

If these programmes fail to refer to scientific evidence, they should not be offered at all. It is important to approach any such dialogue through the "language of desire".



2 Promote safe and science-based spaces of conversation

Young people say that these issues are not talked about and that they do not have spaces in which to discuss them. Creating them and ensuring the presence of scientific evidence will be key to their development in relationships of freedom. Research along these lines has already demonstrated the prevention potential that these environments contribute to if they are based on scientific evidence.

Talking about sexual consent, coercive discourse, or interactive power, can help to label past situations that were associated with consent when in fact they were coercive and to identify future occasions when this occurs so that they can be avoided.



Learn about the success of these spaces in other contexts

3 To make coercive discourse and interactive power visible in order to identify it and not to submit to it

This coercive discourse consists of interactions in the diversity of contexts with which young people have contact and that generate or promote attraction to violence while non-violent people are considered boring. Thus, this coercive discourse visualizes people with aggressive or violent behaviors as the most desirable. Identifying coercive discourse as well as interactive power can also help young people identify the pressures that push them to initiate relationships or make sexual advances when they do not want to.

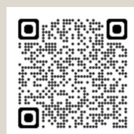
Talking about the imposition of this discourse in a variety of environments can help to detect it and prevent the reproduction of unequal relationships that contribute to gender-based violence.

I know of friend groups where they're out partying, and... one guy buys a girl a drink, and then suddenly the whole group, not just him but all of them, start going, 'Make out... make out... you said yes to the drink...make out...' And she's just like: 'I don't want to'

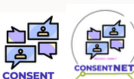
(ZD18. Man, 20)

Yeah, when getting back to the group, they're like, 'What? Man...you should've just gone for it... you were already there with her...just, you know, done something...had some fun.'

(AB19. Man, 18)







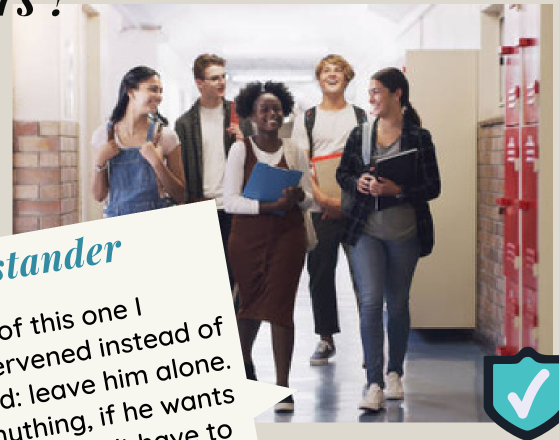




4 *From passive bystanders to 'upstanders'!*

Encourage bystanders to step in when they witness a coercive situation.

Upstanders are people who actively create protective, safe spaces by actively opposing injustice, disrespect or violence.



Upstander

"(...) In the case of this one I experienced, girls intervened instead of boys. So, the girls said: leave him alone. If he doesn't want anything, if he wants to be here with you, you don't have to force him to do it."

(XG03. Man, 18)

5 *Protecting against Isolating Gender Violence*

Isolating Gender Violence (IGV) consists of the attacks and reprisals faced by upstanders **who break the "code of silence" and take a stand to protect victims.**

One of the strategies used by those who submit or are submitted is to accuse them of being "kill-joys" in order to make invisible the courage of those who take a stand and the cowardice of those who submit.

IGV

Pretty much the same situation - guy buys girl a drink... she doesn't want to do anything... and then the group starts pushing. And I'm the one who steps in, saying, 'Enough' (...)
And yeah, I definetly feel that vibe...everyone looking at me differently... like no one says it out loud, the look changes, the attitude changes... like you become the group's kill-joy.

(ZD18 Man, 20)

6 *Making New Alternative Masculinities more visible*

Contrary to harmful claims that all men are potential aggressors, scientific evidence strongly refutes this idea. NAMs not only respect consent but take a firmly stand against violence.

New Alternative Masculinities are everywhere, they are present in school, TV shows, movies... Creating an environment in which NAMs are perceived as attractive will give them the security to continue taking a stance and building safer and freer spaces.

***Materials** for further reading and discussion*

Scientific articles

Communicative acts

Psychology's contributions to effective use and achievemnt of sexual consent.



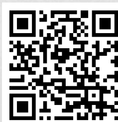
Coercive discourse

Coercive discourse in the awakening of affective-sexual relationships among young women.



Upstanders

From bystanders to upstanders: support and key informants for victims of gender-based violence.



Isolating Gender Violence

The concept and the name of Isolating Gender Violence



Other sources

Sappho · DF DIARIO FEMINISTA · PE Periódico Educación

Communicative acts

A coerced yes is not a yes



Unveiling consent: voices in social media.

Coercive discourse

Networks of positive relationships in school



Upstanders

Up4Diversity: training for educators to be upstanders and to become upstanders to violence against LGBTIQ+ youth.



Isolating Gender Violence

The Basque Parliament incorporates IGV in its legislation.



The reason for not reporting is the IGV

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